

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

JERRY MCKINNEY, SR.,

Plaintiff

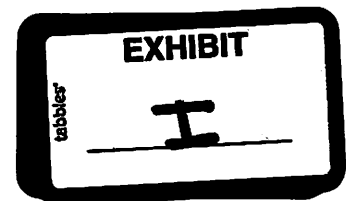
V.

Civil Action 1:19-CV-01339

RAPIDES PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE
and SHERIFF WILLIAM EARL HILTON,

Defendants

30(b)(6) DEPOSITION OF RAPIDES PARISH
SHERIFF'S OFFICE, through its designated
representatives, STACY MCCAIN, SHERIFF WILLIAM
EARL HILTON, DEBBIE MCBETH, given via
videoconferencing in the above-entitled cause,
pursuant to the following stipulation, before
Raynel E. Schule, Certified Shorthand Reporter
in and for the State of Louisiana, commencing at
9:15 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, the 14th day of
July, 2020.



1 November of 2017, Jerry McKinney had a
2 stroke, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And so he went out on medical leave through
5 February of 2018. Is that correct?

6 A. I'm assuming that's correct. I don't have
7 the dates with me on --

8 Q. Okay, but he went out on medical leave for
9 a while and then came back to work,
10 correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And then in the fall of -- of 2018, Mr.
13 McKinney failed his -- his firearm
14 certification process, correct?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Because he was impaired from the stroke he
17 had had the year before?

18 A. Yes.

19 MR. RICHARDSON:

20 Object to the form.

21 You can answer.

22 BY MR. MOST:

23 Q. Okay. The answer was yes?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Yeah, and so he was transferred from the

1 Courtroom Security to Corrections. Is that
2 correct?

3 A. Correct, yes.

4 Q. And -- and in Corrections it's not required
5 that the deputy be firearm certified and
6 carry a gun. Is that correct?

7 A. Correct, yes.

8 Q. And that's why you transferred him over to
9 Corrections, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And the Courtroom Security is -- is more
12 like a normal workday; it's about eight
13 hours, but working Corrections is a 12-hour
14 shift, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And when we talk about Corrections, do we
17 mean the jail?

18 A. Yes, yes.

19 Q. Okay, and Warden Batiste was the Warden of
20 the jail at the time?

21 A. DC-3, yes.

22 Q. What is DC-3?

23 A. We have three detention centers here. We
24 have DC-1 where all people are booked that
25 are arrested. We have DC-2, which is a

1 trustee work-release type program. DC-3 is
2 a facility where we detain inmates that are
3 doing time.

4 Q. Okay. Doing parish time?

5 A. Parish and State.

6 Q. Okay, and Warden Batiste in late 2018 was
7 the Warden of the DC-3 facility, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. He was the person, the highest person at
10 that facility?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. He was responsible for the day-to-day
13 management of that facility?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And why is Corrections a 12-hour shift?

16 A. Well, a lot of police agencies, a lot of
17 correction facilities all over the country,
18 they just like the 12-hour shifts. It
19 gives the employee a little time off. It's
20 a lot of hours on the front end, but he
21 gets a lot of time off on the back end, and
22 employees like that. State Police do it on
23 patrol. We do it. Most of your police
24 departments work 12-hour shifts. The way
25 it works out, it's basically you work 16

1 days one month and 14 another month. So
2 it's good for the employee.

3 Q. Okay. So it -- the 12-hour shift is the
4 way the Sheriff's Office does Corrections
5 because that's for the convenience and
6 benefit of the employee?

7 A. This -- this is nationwide. Most agencies
8 do that.

9 Q. Okay, and -- and the reason why is it's for
10 the convenience and benefit of the
11 employees?

12 MR. RICHARDSON:

13 Object to the form.

14 BY MR. MOST:

15 Q. What was your answer, Sheriff?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. So it's not something inherent to
18 the job, like, I don't know, like, you have
19 to get flown somewhere, and the flights
20 only go every 12 hours or something. It's
21 -- it's for administrative convenience and
22 the benefit of the employee, but it's not
23 something integral to the nature of
24 corrections. Is that correct?

25 MR. RICHARDSON:

1 answer those, hey, I'm good with it.

2 THE WITNESS:

3 What number are we -- what number
4 are we talking about?

5 MR. RICHARDSON:

6 We're talking about 4 and 16.

7 MR. MOST:

8 Yeah. So 4 -- 4 is the process
9 of searching for whether there are
10 any positions Mr. McKinney can do,
11 and 16 is about the interactive
12 process of seeking accommodation so
13 --

14 THE WITNESS:

15 No. -- No. 4 is simply the fact
16 of looking at the roster and seeing
17 where there were any openings, and
18 we did that, and there were no other
19 positions open that McKinney could
20 be placed in. So, you know, that
21 was obvious that that couldn't
22 happen. 16, "Any interactive
23 process of seeking accommodations
24 that any Defendant engaged in with
25 Dep. McKinney," basically, that's

1 the same answer.

2 BY MR. MOST:

3 Q. Okay, and who would be best to answer that,
4 you or Debbie, those two topics?

5 A. Probably Major Hollingsworth or Debbie, but
6 Hollingsworth and Debbie both, you know,
7 they're going to give you the same answer,
8 because that's just how it is. That's --
9 that's all we had.

10 Q. Yeah. I want to go through the roster. So
11 I'll go through that with -- with Debbie.

12 MR. MOST:

13 Unless you object, Tim, I'll --
14 we'll just merge 4 and 16.

15 MR. RICHARDSON:

16 No problem. That's -- that's
17 good.

18 BY MR. MOST:

19 Q. Okay. So moving on to Topic No. 5, which
20 is, "The reasons why Deputy McKinney was
21 terminated" --

22 MR. RICHARDSON:

23 I think he answered that already.

24 MR. MOST:

25 Yeah, but we'll go into it in a

1 had to do something. It was -- you know,
2 the clock was running, and Jerry wasn't
3 getting any better, and we just -- you
4 know, we had to do something, and so we
5 fired him.

6 Q. And why couldn't you just let him keep
7 working eight-hour shifts at the prison?

8 A. Because those are not eight-hour shifts.
9 They're 12-hour shifts, and if we let one
10 employee take advantage of eight-hour
11 shifts, tomorrow and the next day and the
12 next week, there are going to be other
13 employees there wanting to work eight
14 hours, and you can't disrupt a facility
15 like that with letting some work eight
16 hours and some 12. It's like being in the
17 military. It's a ritual. You do
18 everything on time. You do it exactly the
19 same every day, and we couldn't make an
20 extension -- exception for Jerry.

21 Q. Because you didn't want him to get special
22 treatment that other people might want?

23 A. No, it's not good for him; it's not good
24 for the department.

25 Q. Right. So it would have been I guess

1 You could have other inmates hurt. You
2 could have employees hurt, and so it's --
3 like I stated way back earlier in the day,
4 it's kind of like military. It's
5 regimented. You do certain things at
6 certain times. Everybody does it the same
7 on every shift, and they keep everything
8 working and functioning as it should be.

9 Q. All right, and some of things you mentioned
10 in there, and I know I think you're looking
11 at some documents maybe that we produced --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- you know, that we gave Mr. Most in that
14 thousand, couple of thousand-page
15 production, but you talk about logs. So
16 you have to keep logs of what goes on
17 during the jail for each inmate and -- and
18 the basic functions of the jail that
19 happens each shift, correct?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And when you've got another shift change
22 that comes in, right, and that happens, and
23 you're moving one group out to another
24 group, right, does that create some -- I
25 guess for lack of a better term, some

1 downtime where you actually have to swap
2 people out?

3 A. When the relief shift --

4 Q. To get them up to speed in other words?

5 A. When the relief shift comes in, they are
6 briefed --

7 THE COURT REPORTER:

8 Wait, wait. Repeat.

9 BY MR. RICHARDSON:

10 Q. Couldn't hear you, Sheriff.

11 A. Okay. The incoming shift comes in, reports
12 for duty, and they are briefed by the
13 outgoing, the shift that's coming off duty,
14 and that's -- that's a smooth transition.
15 After you do it for some time, a few days,
16 you know, everybody knows what he's doing;
17 he knows where his work station is; he
18 knows what to do in his zone, and he goes
19 there and does that, and if there's
20 anything that the zone officer there from
21 the prior shift needs to tell him, he tells
22 him that, and the off-duty shift leaving
23 out, they leave, and it becomes the
24 responsibility of the incoming shift to
25 carry on.

1 Q. Right. So when that new shift comes in,
2 the old shift has to relay all the
3 information to the new shift, and then they
4 take over from there, correct?

5 A. They take over from there, and anything of
6 any significance is written down, and
7 there's a permanent record of it, because,
8 you know, when a situation occurs, and
9 things do happen in -- in jails, and you
10 get into litigation and criminal charges
11 and things like that, you have to be
12 documented.

13 Q. I understand. And when you only have one
14 shift change, in other words 12 hours and
15 12 hours, you have less of that relaying
16 information to the next shift than you
17 would have to do if you had three
18 eight-hour shifts, right?

19 A. Absolutely, and I've worked eight-hour
20 shifts and the -- the 12-hour shifts, is --
21 that's the way everybody wants to do it,
22 and that's the way to do it.

23 Q. And that's the way you did it in your jail
24 and still -- is still done in the jail?

25 A. Yes, it has been -- it has been done like

1 that here for since approximately 1984.

2 Q. All right. So let's talk about the letter
3 that we looked at before, that November
4 2018 letter. You remember that letter that
5 you looked at for Mr. Most talking about
6 Mr. McKinney. It was a note from the
7 doctor.

8 MR. MOST:

9 I think it's November 27. You
10 want me to pull it up?

11 MR. RICHARDSON:

12 November 27.

13 BY MR. RICHARDSON:

14 Q. Do you have it, Sheriff? William might
15 have it. There you go.

16 MR. MOST:

17 Yeah, I can pull it up.

18 MR. RICHARDSON:

19 All right. You see that. What
20 number is that, William, on our --
21 on our list?

22 MR. MOST:

23 It's "Exhibit 15."

24 MR. RICHARDSON:

25 15.

C E R T I F I C A T E

THIS CERTIFICATION IS VALID ONLY FOR
A TRANSCRIPT ACCOMPANIED BY MY ORIGINAL
SIGNATURE AND ORIGINAL REQUIRED SEAL ON THIS
PAGE.

I, RAYNEL E. SCHULE, Certified Court
Reporter, #77005, in good standing, in and for
the State of Louisiana, as the officer before
whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify
that STACY McCAIN, SHERIFF WILLIAM EARL HILTON,
and DEBBIE McBETH, after having been duly sworn
by me upon authority of R.S. 37:2554, did
testify as hereinbefore set forth in the
foregoing 198 pages; that this testimony was
reported by me in stenotype reporting method,
was prepared and transcribed by me or under my
personal direction and supervision, and is a
true and correct transcript to the best of my
ability and understanding; that the transcript
has been prepared in compliance with transcript
format guidelines required by statute or by
rules of the Board, that I have acted in
compliance with the prohibition on contractual
relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of
Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and
advisory opinions of the Board; that I am not of
counsel, not related to counsel or to the
parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in
the outcome of this matter.

Date

Raynel E. Schule, CSR
Certified Shorthand Reporter
State of Louisiana